Airlines' Safety Prevailing in India

31. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a write-up which appeared in the International Herald Tribune of 3rd September, 1993 and the Times of India of 11th September, 1993, on airline safety prevailing in India, whether India has been declared as the most dangerous country for air travel because of unsafe airports, poor infrastructure and questionable pilot training; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Although the safety record of Indian Airline is lower than world average, the media tends to exaggerate it. The safety record of Air India is among the best in the world. The steps taken by Directorate General of Civil Aviation to enhance the level of air safety include the following:

(i) Safety audit of airlines.

(ii) Implementation of recommendations emanating from reports of investigations into aircraft accidents.

(iii) Upgradation of facilities at airports.

(iv) Periodic inspection of aerodromes.

(v) implementation of measures to eradicate bird menace at airports.

(vi) Monitoring of flight recorders.

(vii) Disseminations of safety information to operators.

Payment to Financial Institutions by Five Star Hotels

32. SHRI S. P. MISHRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that five star hotels located in metropolitan cities have defaulted in payment to the tune of lakhs and lakhs of rupees to the Financial Institution; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what steps Government propose to take to recover the amount?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Privatisation policy of Airlines

33. SHRI BRAHAM DEO ANAND PASWAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that consequent upon the policy of privatisation of Airlines, Private Airlines Companies like East and West Airlines and Jet Airlines etc. are providing alround satisfactory services to thousands of passengers everyday;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these private companies are earning huge profits and Government run airlines like 'Indian Airlines' and 'Air India' are running into losses;

(c) whether the pay scales and many other facilities provided to the employees of these private airlines are much better as compared to the employees of Government airlines; and

(d) if so, whehter Government propose to provide the staff of Indian Airlines and Air India with best competitive pay scales and other facilities, if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) There is no proposal at present for privatisation of the national carriers. Air Taxi Operators have been permitted to provide non-scheduled services